

Washington News

Senator Rayner, democrat, of Maryland, addressed the senate on the Mexican question. He commended President Taft's conduct.

Senator Cummins, of Iowa, has introduced a resolution ordering the monetary commission to make its final report. The Washington correspondent for the Associated Press says: "Encouraged by the smooth working of their new legislative machine, which recently began to grind, democratic leaders of the house planned to extend their tariff revision program. Until now the only tariff tinkering determined upon included Canadian reciprocity, the free list to benefit the farmers opposed to the reciprocity bill as it stands, and the wool and cotton schedules, but now it has been determined to revise the agricultural schedule. Chairman Underwood, of the ways and means committee, said the house, at the rate of proceedings, would complete the business much earlier than generally anticipated, and that other tariff schedules would be taken up after the wool and cotton schedules have been revised.

"The agricultural schedule will be attacked by the democrats because of the high cost of living and an effort will be made to reduce the duties on those food products that are most necessary to the public.

"Revision of the wool schedule of the Payne-Aldrich tariff law, accepted as forming part of the program of the democratic house of representatives will have to be undertaken without the assistance of the tariff board. It was announced, following the first full meeting of the house committee on ways and means that the tariff board is not yet in a position to furnish information on the wool schedule.

"The board has informed Chairman Underwood that it has unanimously decided that submission of the incomplete data on wool-growing now in its possession would be misleading and unfair to the board.

"The work of inquiry into the cost of production into domestic wool has been practically completed for the country east of the Mississippi, but reports from Texas, Montana, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Idaho and Wyoming are still lacking.

"The clause in the Canadian reciprocity bill inserted by the democratic caucus, providing that negotiations with Canada to insure further reciprocal relations, will not in any way jeopardize the bill itself in the opinion of political leaders of both parties. Chairman Underwood, of

the ways and means committee, Representative McCall, who introduced the bill in the Sixty-second congress, and President Taft himself conferred as to the added clause before it was proposed and incorporated in the Underwood bill. Secretary Knox also was consulted.

"The Canadian reciprocity bill, introduced in the house, was reported favorably to the house by the new ways and means committee. The committee also passed favorably on the free list tariff measure but will not report it until later.

The democratic house, by a vote of 296 to 16, passed the Rucker resolution providing for the election of senators by the people. The Associated Press report says: "This is the first of the democratic program measures passed by the house. It went through without modification and with a speed that brought protests from the republicans. The resolution, as the house approved it, is in the form of the Borah resolution reported out of the senate judiciary committee in the closing days of the last congress. Republican opposition to the Rucker resolution in the house was based on the fact that it did not contain the changes afterwards made in the fight in the senate which assured to congress continued control over elections in the several states. After six hours of debate, in which many demands were made for this change in the resolution, all but fifteen of the republicans voted for the passage of the resolution. The majority of them stated during the debate that they would support the resolution, because they were convinced that the public wanted such a constitutional amendment submitted to the country as quickly as possible.

"Those who opposed the resolution on the final vote were:

"Republicans—Cannon, Mann, Illinois; Danforth, Dwight, Malby, New York; Dodds, Fordney, McMorran, Michigan; Harris, Lawrence, McCall, Wilder, Massachusetts; Hinds, Maine, Sulloway, New Hampshire; Utter, Rhode Island.

"Democrats—McDermott, Illinois."

Representative Raney, Illinois, has introduced in the house a resolution designed to open the way for a thorough investigation of the department of justice. Mr. Rainey attacked the department before as a member of the minority, but now he appeals to congress with his party in control. The resolution, referred to the committee on rules, provides that a com-

mittee of nine, six democrats and three republicans—conduct the investigation, and asks an appropriation of \$150,000 to cover the expense. It directs a thorough inquiry into all cases instituted under the Sherman anti-trust law and the commodities clause of the Hepburn railroad rate law, and to ascertain what cases, if any, were dropped and the reasons. Mr. Rainey's resolution also contemplates an inquiry into the appropriations to the department for employment of special counsel, how expended and in what cases, and also what special counsel are now employed, and upon what character of work.

An Associated Press correspondent, under date of April 11, says: "Reciprocity with Canada and a farmer's free list, it was decided at the democratic caucus held here recently, will be the legislation taken up in the order named by the present house of representatives. The woolen and cotton schedules, according to present indications, will follow.

"In the caucus there was no opposition to Canadian reciprocity, and no changes or additions to the bill as presented by Chairman Underwood of the house ways and means committee were offered by those present.

"On the free list will be included those things which the farmer needs most, namely, agricultural implements, dressed meat and meat products, flour, rough lumber, boots, shoes and saddles; wire fencing, bailing wire, cotton bagging, cotton ties, bagging ties, burlap and salt.

"On many of these products the present tariff is practically prohibitive and there are few importations of them on that account. It is impossible for this reason to estimate what the difference will amount to by putting them on the free list.

"In the debate which followed, Chairman Underwood's presentation of the general plan a dispute developed on the part of several members to demand that Canadian reciprocity and the free list bills be combined. Representative Rucker, of Colorado, and Shirley, of Kentucky, led in efforts to override the majority, but the ways and means program was generally supported.

"It is probable the Canadian reciprocity bill will be introduced Thursday. Its introduction and the farmer's free list bill as caucus measures will not stand in the way of immediate introduction of the three important measures—popular election of senators, publicity before election of campaign contributions and statehood for Arizona and New Mexico. These are not to be treated as caucus measures, but will come in as party bills and will be taken up for action as soon as they can be reported from their committees. Another caucus is to be held to debate the revision of the wool and cotton schedules, to be taken up in the house following the passage of the reciprocity and the free list bills.

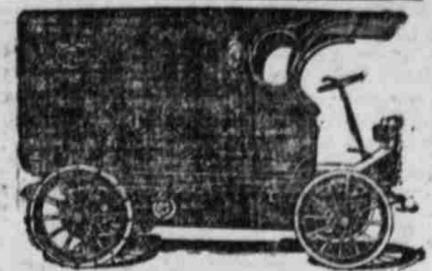
"The caucus voted a straight indorsement of the Underwood reciprocity bill, 128 ayes, 29 nays and 6 voting present.

"The caucus added a provision to the Underwood reciprocity bill calling on the president to continue negotiations with Canada with a view of establishing further reciprocal trade relations.

"Mr. Fitzgerald, of New York, fought this provision, but he was voted down.

"The house devoted two hours of its time to the election of these committees, this being the first time in history that course was taken. The Associated Press report says:

"Former Speaker Cannon taunted the democrats with having approved as the republican representatives on the various committees practically



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